

are indispensable participants, but these experts cannot alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the balance required by our democratic traditions, a cross-cutting group needs to be working together at the same table.

For years before our eyes, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and fear of terrorism—whether checkpoints on streets near the Capitol even when there were no alerts, or applications of technology without regard to their effects on privacy. We have also seen heightened controversy, litigation, hearings, legislation and court decisions because of the use of technology that intercepts terrorist communications but also covers communications among Americans.

Following the unprecedented terrorist attack on our country, Americans expected additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against this frightening threat. However, in our country, people also expect government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These years in our history will long be remembered by the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country and the unprecedented challenges it has brought. We must provide ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society for as long as is necessary. Yet, this is no ordinary war that we expect to be over in a matter of years. The end point could be generations from now. The indeterminate nature of the threat adds to the necessity of putting aside ad hoc approaches to security developed in isolation from the goal of maintaining an open society.

When we have faced unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply and to move to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission) and the Kerner Commission that investigate the riotous uprisings that swept American cities in the 1960s and 1970s. The important difference in the Commission proposed in this bill is that it seeks to act before a crisis-level erosion of basic freedoms takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security that neither requires nor is subject to advance civilian oversight or analysis of alternatives or repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With no vehicles for leadership on issues of security and openness, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th century approaches, such as crude blockades, unsightly barriers around beautiful monuments and other signals that the society is closing down, or anti-privacy applications, without appropriate exploration of possible alternatives. The threat of terrorism to an open society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and then come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free

and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level presidential commission of experts in a broad spectrum of disciplines who can help chart the new course that will be required to protect our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to a family obligation, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor in the afternoon of Friday, September 7, 2007.

Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote No. 862 (on agreeing to the Conyers amendment to H.R. 1908), “no” on rollcall vote No. 863 (on passage of H.R. 1908), and “no” on rollcall vote No. 864 (on passage of the conference report H. Rept. 110–317 to H.R. 2669).

CONGRATULATING MS. EVANGELINE EDWARDS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Evangeline Edwards of Morrison, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. Her outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young woman.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that “people can make a difference where governments cannot.” This unique interaction and exposure will enable Ms. Edwards to gain a greater understanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Edwards and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING BRYCE FRAZIER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bryce Frazier, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest

qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bryce has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Bryce has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bryce Frazier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Louisiana State University at Alexandria's celebration of the 65th anniversary of the founding of the 101st Airborne Division at Camp Claiborne, La., which was held on August 7, 2007.

Since its activation on August 16, 1942, this unit has answered the call of duty during many of our Nation's most dire military conflicts, fulfilling the prophecy of MG William C. Lee, who promised the first recruits the unit had a “rendezvous with destiny.”

Perhaps the truth of this prediction was first realized during World War II, when the 101st Airborne Division led the way on D-Day in the night drop prior to the invasion. Later, during the Siege of Bastogne, BG Anthony McAuliffe and the Screaming Eagles fought on until the siege was lifted. For their heroic efforts in these missions and others during the Second World War, the division was awarded four campaign streamers and two Presidential Unit Citations.

The 101st triumphant role in our Nation's military history did not end there. In the mid-1960s, the 1st Brigade and support troops were deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, followed by the rest of the division in late 1967. In almost 7 years of combat in Vietnam, elements of the 101st participated in as many as 15 campaigns, further solidifying its reputation for military professionalism.

The 101st Airborne Division again brushed with destiny in January 1991, this time in Iraq. During the deepest combat air assault into enemy territory in world history, the 101st emerged from 100 hours of fighting with no casualties, while also capturing thousands of enemy prisoners of wars.

In 1948, the 101st Airborne Division was reactivated as a training unit at Camp Breckinridge, Ky., and again in 1950. It was reactivated in 1954 at Fort Jackson, S.C. Two years later, in March 1956, the 101st was transferred to Fort Campbell, Ky., to be reorganized as a combat division.

In addition to its impressive history in combat, Fort Campbell soldiers have supported humanitarian relief efforts in Rwanda and Somalia as well as supplying peacekeepers to Haiti and Bosnia.

Today, the 101st Airborne Division stands as the Army's and the world's only air assault